

THE BELL RINGER



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MONTGOMERY BELL ACADEMY

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Extra! Extra! *Bell Ringer* Starts a New Year

by Alex Rogers

This year promises to be an exciting one for the *Bell Ringer*. Many new and exciting ideas will be implemented in order to increase the quality of an already outstanding publication. With student support, this year's newspaper could set a new mold for student journalism at MBA.

One of the goals of the paper is to focus on campus wide and community issues. The *Bell Ringer* is published between six and eight times a year, and it is therefore quite difficult to have a news flash. It is however, quite feasible to focus on enduring local or community issues and to run a series of stories analyzing or possibly criticizing their resolutions.

As with any paper, Montgomery Bell's would like to create talk on campus. If any legitimate grievances are brought to light and presented reasonably, then it is

possible for the students to use the paper as a vehicle for change. An empirical example would be a group of articles done before the current senior class came to MBA about the cafeteria. The articles noted the price disparity between the cafeteria on campus and the cafeterias at other schools; the following year, price reductions were introduced.

One would think it a certainty that the current student body has grievances as well. Express these feelings in the *Bell Ringer*. As Dr. Paschall said last year, there is an appropriate forum for certain types of expression. The paper is the student body's legitimate forum for complaint and discussion. Changes can be made.

With the power to disseminate views comes the responsibility to report and disseminate accurately. The current editor-in-chief will enter-

tain almost any ideas or articles that have legitimate concerns. Think of the sense of accomplishment that will come from enhancing the well-being of the student body because of an article in the *Bell Ringer*.

The paper, however, is not all work and no play. This year a creative writing contest will be sponsored, as well as a bike race. The editorial staff has certainly not developed an exhaustive list of ideas for the paper; any student-generated ideas would be welcomed and are even encouraged.

Several new sections will be introduced this year: a letters to the editor page, classifieds, and a junior school section. With the letters to the editor, the staff hopes to receive comments about articles written in the previous paper, as is done in the *Banner* or the *Tennessean*. One can in this fashion get an opinion

printed without the time commitment of the full article. Since this is a new section, special considerations will be given, credit-wise, to those letters to the editor that are actually published.

The classified section will be printed if the interest is high enough. It will be done just as in other newspapers where a person can, for a nominal fee, advertise in the paper something they wish to sell or announce. Anyone interested in selling something by means of the paper should contact Roe Elam or Shade Murray.

The Junior School section can only be realized if interest is high enough, but the possibility exists of having a section written entirely by and exclusively concerning the Junior School. More on this section will be announced later in the year. Those wanting to be involved should contact Seth

Robertson.

If anyone wishes to write reviews of books, plays, movies, etc. or wishes to cover sports or local news events, they should contact the department head of the section they wish to write for.

Finally, a student newspaper is by definition a journalistic endeavor placed within a school context. In light of this fact, one of the primary goals of this year's staff will be to encourage aspiring writers to write in a style more concurrent with a newspaper, as opposed to some other form of publication. Dr. Christian Niemeyer, the newspaper's advisor, will be proctoring a ninth period activity for those interested in becoming permanent members of the newspaper's staff.

It is a sincere hope that the *Bell Ringer* will be drawn from a wide spectrum of talent at MBA. If anyone has questions or comments, please contact Alex Rogers or John Wesley.

M.B.A. Building: A New Future

by Hunter Connelly

Since 1867, Montgomery Bell Academy has established itself among a select group of college preparatory schools in the South. Now, approaching the 21st century, MBA is poised to become one of a handful of superior day schools in the entire nation.

In 1981, MBA launched an ambitious campaign, "The Tradition of Excellence," setting a goal of \$7.5 million, and dedicating the funds to significant improvement of the school's academic and athletic facilities and to a substantial increase in the school's endowment. Among the improvements brought about through the Campaign were the construction of the Massey Building for the Junior School, renovation of Old Science Hall in honor of Mr. Francis Carter, and a new sci-

ence classroom/laboratory on the ground floor of Currey Gymnasium. A new football field, stadium, and track were built along with new tennis courts and a gymnasium addition also providing the weight room and the wrestling room.

Now, ten years later, construction has begun for the new fine arts building. This flexible purpose building will be used for musical and dramatic performances, lectures, films, class or group meetings public gatherings, and school assembly. In addition, there will be a new dining hall and kitchen in the new building. This new building will supply classrooms for studio art, rehearsal and studio rooms for choral and instrumental music, and for classes and performances in drama. There will be a gallery for exhibition of student artwork and for visiting art exhibitions. The building will hold



Photo by Justin Cronin

additional classrooms, classrooms equipped for special use, in-school study carrels and work space for faculty, conference rooms, facilities for student publications (newspaper, year book, etc...), and appropriate placement and configuration of school offices (Alumni & Development, College Counseling, Accounting and Business, Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds, Bookstore, and general storage).

This building will become the primary "public" building on campus. It will be named the Joe C. Davis Building. The chairman of this project is J. Barry Booker (class of '69), and he is helped by many others. The new building is sure to solve many of the school's small, yet important, problems and to keep MBA Forging a Generation Ahead.

-The Author thanks Dr. Paschall and Mr. Weaver for their help with this article

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Bell
Ringer
welcomes
everyone
back to school

NEWS & FEATURES

The Scoop on The Bell

by Garret Kyle

From July 7-10, this year's annual staff attended a workshop at Samford University in Alabama to begin planning the upcoming yearbook. Additionally, new staff members learned basic layout and design techniques while editors learned advanced techniques and organizational strategies.

In discussing the design of the book, the editors agreed that the changes made in last year's design are well worth keeping. We feel that the larger size and reduced number of pages allows us to spend more time on each page and create an annual that is more flowing and attractive than was possible with the old size. We also believe that the

changes do not upset the traditional feel of the book or reduce the quality of writing and photography that distinguish it from all others. We are entirely committed to producing the best annual possible and believe that the new design will give us the best chance of doing so.

With two less editors this year than last and the loss of several staffers, we are counting on increased student body support. The more students who volunteer to write articles, help with layout, or take pictures, the better and more representative of the overall character of the school the book will be. We look forward to making, with your help, the 1991-1992 annual the best M.B.A. has yet seen.

F.C.A. Looks Forward to a Good Year

by Sam Bartholomew

The fellowship of Christian Athletes have already scheduled a fabulous and fun year for the students at M.B.A. The F.C.A. officers for this year are seniors: Hunter Connelly, Grant "Ken" Seshul, and Bo "D.C." Bartholomew. The single junior officer is John Arendale. All four officers attended the leadership camp this summer to prepare F.C.A. as much as possible for the upcoming year.

One goal this program has this year is to get the faculty and coaches involved. Many special meetings will be held this year and one is a coaches' and faculty's night. Other special meetings include surprise guest speakers, outrageous new videos, a possible Ocoee rafting trip, totally awesome new skits and games, and our special open-

ing meeting on September 5th.

Everyone is invited to participate in any or all of our activities. For you younger guys in the 7th, 8th, 9th, and 10th grades, rides are sometimes hard to get and our meetings a little out of your schedule. If you would like to get a ride, please contact one of the officers or if there is a more suitable time for you and some friends to meet please let us know. All together there is an exciting year of great activities and coed meetings planned, so please come and join us!

We meet every Thursday night usually from 6:00 to 8:00. In the past, mostly upperclassmen have come, but we would like to stress the invitation to all M.B.A. students from 7th through 12th grades.

The Junior Class: expectations

by Jody Cummings

With over ninety juniors wandering the M.B.A. campus, this year's class hopes to provide the leadership which it is has displayed in the past. This leadership comes from the entire class, but more directly from the class officers, the student council members, and the honor council representatives.

Those elected for this year are: Jody Cummings, Mark Fuqua, Baker Eadie, John Crosslin, Tom Hamling, Andy Ward, Frazer Buntin, Ward Waltemath, Shannon Durrett, John Arendale, and Glenn Gaston.

This year's class has been very active in school organizations over the years, most notably in student government, service clubs, debate, school publications, and athletics.

This involvement is shown by the juniors making up almost half of the football team. Furthermore, by means of the new student council, more juniors can participate in the student's governing bodies.

The most important task for the juniors, however, is raising money for the prom. This year, we hope to do as well as previous junior classes and to make 1991-1992 one of the best school-years M.B.A. has ever seen.

Pledged:

The Honor Council, 1991-1992

by Jackson Wray

When I first came to MBA about five years ago as a seventh grader, I had many concerns about the new world I was entering and on occasion found myself rather afraid of learning a new set of ropes. Although some of my friends from Oak Hill Elementary School were making the transition with me, a large portion of my class and almost everyone in the grades above me were complete strangers. Their backgrounds, lifestyles, and reputations were utter mysteries as far as I was concerned. Having lived a fairly sheltered thirteen years, I considered myself a trusting fellow; but in my new environment, how was I to know what amount of caution to exercise?

Fortunately, the MBA Honor System helped to assuage my worries. Sure, I had heard of it before coming to the school, but not until that registration day in

August did I grasp what the Honor System meant for me as an individual. Based on a code of mutual trust, the Honor System was designed to allow students luxuries such as leaving personal belongings lying around on campus (not under lock and key) and taking tests without a teacher in the room. According to the code, those who study on the Hill should not have to worry about any theft or copying. Similarly, teachers should not have to police their classes for cheaters or liars. I can still recall Dr. Drake's famous Honor System scenario: "I should be able to leave my wallet lying out on the Ball Building patio and find it in the same place when I come back."

Unfortunately, I'm not completely sure that the above would have held true during the last school year. Far too many books, bags, and wallets disappeared under questionable circumstances. Of course, it would be ridiculous to conclude

that all of these were stolen by MBA students or even stolen at all for that matter. Because such items tend to be very similar in appearance, they are easily misplaced or mistaken; but I know for a fact that THERE WAS A LOT OF STEALING ON THE MBA CAMPUS LAST YEAR. In fact, some extremely nasty incidents occurred right at the end of the year. For everyone's sake, theft must not become a presence in our community again this year. I have a feeling that it won't. In my opinion, MBA students have no patience or sympathy for those who steal, and theft tends to enrage the student body much more quickly than lying, cheating, or deceiving.

Even so, lying, cheating, and deceiving are just as dishonorable and intolerable. Students should take pride in doing their own work and not copying someone else's. (This way, one actually learns the material.) Similarly, students should

not allow anyone who has not done the work to copy from them. (In an academically competitive atmosphere, why give someone that type of advantage?) As expected, lying and deceiving tend to present more difficulties in student-teacher interactions. More often than not, lies and deception are attempts to cover a previous transgression of the Honor Code, and they only complicate (and worsen) the individual's situation. Telling the truth continually proves itself as the best policy with the least repercussions.

As trite as it may sound, the Honor System is here for the students' benefit. It should be neither feared nor mocked but rather given the simple respect it deserves from each and every student. Under this condition, the Honor System helps to create an open and trusting environment for MBA students to enjoy. In addition, the Honor System serves as a safety net for the

students. If a student is found guilty of an Honor Code violation and punished, he is more likely to correct his ways than if he had not been caught. Hopefully, he can avoid much larger problems (e.g. losing a job, going to prison) down the road. In sum, the Honor System is here to help, not hinder; and with everyone's cooperation, the 1991-92 MBA school year can be a great one!

NEWS

The Senior Class

by Sam Bartholomew

The class of 1992 is an outstanding and promising class. We have incredible talent and have garnered many honors and achievements. I am honored to be our representative; I would like to thank the class for their vote of confidence in me.

As president, the needs of the class and the duties of my office come first. It is not my job to effect sweeping change, but I do plan to be sensitive to the needs and wants of my classmates and try and bring the class closer together in order to accomplish as much as possible.

Senior privileges seem to be the most prevalent issue on everyone's minds. As far as I know, the new nine period schedule opens up some interesting opportunities. As I understand it, the ninth period or "activity" period will be free time for seniors. I plan to investigate what can be arranged for added privileges, whether it be added free time or senior preference in the history room.

Bringing the class closer together may or may not be what the class is concerned with, but as our representative,

I think the more togetherness we have, the easier it will be to get the job done. As a cohesive group, we could be involved in activities such as class parties, more "duds" days, the senior gift, etc. I do promise to keep in-school meetings as short as possible.

Senior year is a big year with lots of deadlines and the business of getting into college. Our class does not need the added worry of getting people properly organized for activities such as soup kitchen. I will do my best to take care of these burdens with the help of other officers so that the only thing my classmates need worry about is having a great year and finding good fits with the most suitable colleges. I do not want stress detracting from the fun of our last year in high school.

In order to be sensitive to the needs and ideas of the class, we will have a "Senior Suggestion" box where seniors can submit their ideas to the class officers. I am hopeful that with input from the whole class I will be able to be the best possible representative that I can be.

The Sophomore Class

by Brandon Shea

Though most everyone is bummed out because summer is gone, we should look forward to a great year. I have planned several activities that should punch more fun into the school year.

For the fall, I planned a volley-ball tournament. The tournament consists of four man teams which compete in a round robin. What's more, I have discussed possible dances or parties in the fall and winter with Lissa Ezell, president of Harpeth Hall's sophomore class.

In the spring, there are many cool things to do. One of those is the survival game, either students vs. students or students vs. fathers. Another possible spring time activity would be a rafting trip down the Ocoee River. It is not out of the question to have a backpacking trip somewhere in middle or eastern Tennessee,

as well.

During the school year, if most of our class supports it, we could hold a fundraiser and get a headstart on earning money for the prom. By commencing our fundraising as sophomores, we could earn enough money to have a truly spectacular set and band. I am not certain what the fundraiser might be, but as a class, we could pool our ideas and find several suggestions.

Everything mentioned is an idea that I have come up with; if anyone has any suggestions pertaining to the sophomore class, please come see me. Suggestions are more than welcome because it is you, the sophomore class who has elected me.

I will try my best to make this a great year for all of you, and I would like to thank all those who voted for me.

OPINIONS

The Value of the M.B.A. Junior School

by Taylor Harris

Upon completing the sixth grade, every student interested in attending MBA for high school has to make the decision of where to go for junior high. In my opinion, the MBA junior school is an excellent choice.

I can think of only two reasons not to attend MBA's junior school. First, some parents might think that the transition from elementary school to MBA would be too harsh, and they would rather keep their son in a more protected environment for two years. Second, students at schools such as Ensworth and Harding have spent seven years without the enjoyment of being in the oldest class; these students might prefer

staying at their school for junior high to coming to MBA and becoming the youngest again.

The second of these two reasons is valid, but the first is not. Students in the junior school are separated from the high school in classes and athletics, but they are made to feel like a part of the MBA spirit and tradition. Thus, the MBA junior school is protective enough but without depriving a student of his sense of pride in the high school and its successes.

The MBA junior school is the best place to prepare a student for the high school. Students entering MBA at the ninth grade year probably have the most trouble adjusting to the English expecta-

tions, the stringency of the demerit system, and the overall work load. The MBA junior school prepares the student for all of these. Students learn how to write themes and term papers, what actions will result in demerits, and how to use time wisely in order to complete all work. They also get a head start in Latin.

The MBA junior school is difficult and fairly strict, but its graduates have many advantages over their high school classmates coming from different backgrounds. Above all, they are acquainted with the school and its challenges, and they are ready to participate and succeed in MBA's activities as they have seen other students do in the past.

The Value of Public Education

by Scott Hande

I came to MBA in 1987 after nine years of public education. One of the things I learned my first year here was how few people shared this background: probably only 20 or 30 percent of MBA students have attended a public school for any significant length of time of time. Many of the private school students I have met have shown a marked disdain for public schools in general.

I believe that this scorn is largely undeserved, and that by not attending the public system at least in grade school, one may be missing certain values not taught in private schools.

At a public school, a student meets many more types of people than at a private academy. He or she will have classes with children from every financial situation, with children of every different race, even with children from abroad. The public school student will see peers with far different goals in life. One may drop out in a few years to work, another plans to quit after getting his diploma, another hopes to go to college and is striving to earn a scholarship. Compared to the vari-

ety of people found in a public school, the private school mix seems kind of bland.

Yes, I know that this fact in itself isn't terribly exciting, and may downright turn some of you off, but it is my strong conviction that the values that can be learned by being around people different from you are among the most important taught in grade school. In my journey through the public system, I learned to respect all people, regardless of race, wealth, religion, or creed. I am not saying that these values cannot be learned in private schools, but that it is harder to do so. MBA's greatest fault, in my opinion, is that its students are generally less receptive to people different from themselves.

A common argument against public schools is that the quality of education that can be received there is much lower than at a private school. This argument is not well-founded. The elementary, middle, and jr. high schools in Nashville, especially in our area, are generally strong in their caliber of education. Perhaps not all the students in the public system are outgo-

ing enough to learn all the school is teaching, but this is no weakness in the school's part. I came to MBA after nine years of public education, and I was able to hold high averages in my classes as a freshman. The public schools will teach and teach well anyone who is willing to learn.

Believe me, I do not think that private schools are the source of all evil in the world, or else I wouldn't be going here. No one offers a stronger education than M.B.A., while the public high schools in Nashville, even in the whole South, tend to be rather weak. Hume-Fogg is one exception. Like all Magnet schools, it is very sound academically, but it doesn't have the athletic program that M.B.A. has. These are the reasons why I came to M.B.A. instead of Hillwood or Hume-Fogg. I can even understand going to a private school in the elementary grades. Bussing, class size, and security are all issues which may affect the decision of where to attend high school. I simply believe it is important to recognize the merits of a public education.

OPINIONS

Are the U.S.'s Fiscal Problems Truth or Falsehood?

by Behdad Shahsavari

Given the state of the budget deficit a year ago, the near fiasco that the U.S. experienced over the last budget compromise (FY '91) may have been a life-saving blessing in disguise. After many last minute changes and several amendments to the deadline for the compromise, Congress came through with a package to solve all of our fiscal problems.

In years past, the so called budget compromise was merely a promise by Congress not to spend so much. Certain funds were allocated to existing programs, but there was almost no limit set on funding for new programs, nor was there any means provided to block a program which cost too much. If a new program was passed through the legislature, or an old program was to be expanded, it was funded no matter what the cost. This funding mechanism came to be known as discretionary spending, essentially taking money straight from the deficit. Congress merely increased the deficit to fund any program it wished. Again the compromise, theoretically designed to shrink the massive deficit, had no way to prevent such wanton and unchecked spending. Thus legislators knew that the compromise existed in name only and was no true barrier to spending on new programs. The only real function the compromise had was to set new budgets for the existing

programs. This situation, repeated year after year, placed no deterrent to spending in the path of Congress. Our legislature made promises of fiscal relief which worked on paper and seemed to reduce deficits, but failed to take into account new programs or place an enforceable limit on discretionary spending. Meanwhile the already huge deficit continued to grow.

Foreseeing a potential collapse of the U.S. economy, fiscally minded Congressmen acted. A measure to prevent a runaway increase of the deficit, known as the Gramm-Rudmann-Hollings Act, was enacted. The Act (GRH) set up an automatic five-year system of cuts which would be enacted when the deficit reached a certain point. Since these cuts were automatic, the budget would be out of the hands of Congress for five years unless they restrained their mindless spending trend. Additionally, the proposed GRH would cut, slash, or even kill many programs which Congress wanted alive. For instance, huge cuts would be made in areas of Social Security and Medicare. As far as the men of Congress were concerned, this would kill their popularity and make reelection harder for incumbent candidates. The deterrent effect was quite serious.

It seemed, however, that Congress's memory was short term. The time to create the FY '91 budget rolled around again and legislators

found they had exceeded GRH caps in all areas and the cuts would inevitably ensue unless serious (i.e. unpopular and frugal) measures were taken. Faced with the choice of GRH or responsible fiscal policies, Congress still had a hard time deciding. Negotiations extend past GRH deadlines only through special Presidential stopgap measures which only added a few days. In the end, Congress decided having control in a restrained fiscal environment (the current budget compromise) was better than no control and automated cuts (GRH).

The new compromise actually shows great promise. Instead of mere promises of budget deficit decrease, now there are definite caps set into the law. Instead of ignoring new spending, now any proposed plan must fit in the caps. Under the FY '91 compromise, the budget was been divided into these distinct areas: defense, foreign, and domestic. There are caps on the amount of spending in each of these categories. Discretionary spending or deficit spending is no longer possible under any circumstance. A program must fit into one of the three categories and must fit within its category's cap. A new program now must specify its funding. If the program is not self-funding or does not generate revenue, it must have a funding mechanism before being passed by Congress. No longer can a

program assume it will be funded from "general revenues" (i.e. the deficit). A plan costing money can either raise taxes or cut other programs within its budget area (foreign, domestic, or defense). There are simply no other options.

Some monetary analysts have fears because an emergency option to spend is available and has already been used three times. I feel, however, that their fears are largely unfounded. The emergency measure is called a sequester. The procedure for a sequester is as follows. The cost of the program causing the sequester will be taken from all the other programs within the budget area. In other words, an across the board cut (within the area) will occur, detracting some very small percentage, say .005%, from all programs under the specific area. These cuts could be instantaneous or could occur on the next fiscal year, simply detracting the programs cost from the total available for that category. For example, a \$150 mil domestic program without specified funding would cut all domestic programs by a small amount to fund itself or it would decrease FY '92 domestic spending total by \$150. Temporary funds would come from the deficit. The process sounds like an easy way to evade the compromise, but it is not in practice.

The sequester is styled for

use as a last minute emergency measure, for instance to fund disaster relief for another military conflict. The sequester requires a 60% majority vote in both houses of Congress as well as Presidential approval. This condition is very hard to meet just for funding a new program. Additionally, the condition of cutting all other programs within the budget area makes the sequester even harder to happen. No one wants to vote funding for a program which will result in a cut of their own program. The serious nature of the sequester is understood by Congress and has been enacted actively only once, and that was to provide disaster relief to others. The other two sequesters were due to bookkeeping errors in estimating the cost of some programs. They were not due to funding a specific program which did not specify.

The new compromise sets an unprecedented standard for restrained and responsible fiscal policy making. Its aim is not quick and painful cuts in order to swiftly decrease the deficit. It is intended, instead, to kill the trend of unrestrained spending in Congress, thus providing for a stable economy. Deficit reduction will come with a steadily growing economy. The important first step to reduction, that of a balanced monetary policy that investors can be confident of, has already been taken by Congress. Let us just hope that such wise steps will continue.

Political Awareness

by Andrew Fitzgerald

In my experience with the MBA student body, I have always felt the school to be predominantly right-wing in its political views. I found a large majority of students to be supporters of the Republican party, and when, last year, an open political discussion group for high school students, organized by Republican campaign officials was announced in assembly, I had expected a large turnout of MBA students. To my surprise, only one other MBA student besides myself attended. I discovered that the organiz-

ers of the event had also viewed the MBA student body as right-wing and had also expected a large turnout from our school. I still feel that many MBA students share the political views of the Republican Party, but few have the time to attend off-campus rallies, discussion groups, etc. This is why I hope to see the growth of school sponsored political activities, oriented towards encouraging awareness of political views and opinions. Such awareness will serve a growing importance as the '92 election day approaches.

The Top Ten Things You're Most Likely to Hear Alex Rogers Say

Note: Editor-in-chief had nothing to do with this article. Hmph!

by Jackson Wray

10. **CENSORED** (appears later)
9. "I never said that!"
8. Something dumb in French spoken so fast the French couldn't even understand it
7. "Doesn't anyone at this school play racketball?"
6. "To put it simply, forget the inequities of the situation..."
5. "Bzzzt" (an attempt, we think, to pronounce the word *because*)
4. "Anyone want a teriyaki rice cake?"
3. "What do you mean a maximum of 7000 words!?"
2. "B is proportional to b."
1. "I have two questions: One..."

From the Annals of W-5:
Even as we speak, envious time has fled. Seize the day trusting as little as possible in the one that follows.

OPINIONS

Drug Legalization: The Correct Policy

By Robert Howell

In the past decade, our government has taken hard-line stances on many issues and has provided ultimatums on a great many of them. The crusade most often purported is probably the one against drugs. Countless individuals are continuously arrested and persecuted for crimes of indirect or nonviolence. This position of controlled and illegal substances, I believe, needs to be reevaluated on both utilitarian, and more importantly, on libertarian grounds.

Although the current policy on drugs has some beneficial aspects, the disadvantageous ramifications seem to overwhelm even the most highly purported advantages. The most popular justification for the current stance is the problem of addiction. This argument, however, seems to ignore the lessons learned from prohibition and other restrictive policies. Even the current addiction rate should prove that governmental restrictions do not stop addiction or the flow of drugs into society. In fact, it has been evidenced that for many, especially youth, the rate of drug use actually increases when it is forbidden. Many people take contrary positions, either consciously or unconsciously, in order to merely "rebel" against authority. In addition to increased frequency of drug use, the cleanliness and purity of narcotics under restricted production should be considered. When production and distribution are "prevented", circumventary measures are taken by underground

sources. Unfortunately, as a result of such restrictions, sanitary processes are not utilized, and often very dangerous substances are added, unclean injection needles are used, potency or dosage is not accurately controlled, etc. So not only is use perhaps increased, but the danger involved in consumption is much higher.

For a cause that should be so controversial, the government is spending massive amounts of taxpayer's money. In a country where our financial difficulties are so large, it is extremely dangerous to fight such a costly domestic war. The futility of the drug war only further ridicules such expenditures. Instead of terminating drug influx, the confiscation of drugs only makes the illegal importers more cautious, and causes them to raise the prices for the remaining drugs.

This sudden crackdown war seems almost genocidal in its methods. In days of lesser restriction, lower classes and minorities seized the opportunity to rise in economic status and to grab a piece of the "American Dream". Now a mass extermination of those entrepreneurial minorities has begun in a crusade rivaling those of religion. What is entitled the "War on Drugs" is more often than not a war on those associated with drugs. This is analogous to leaving a copy of an exam in an unmonitored room in front of a class of disadvantaged students, letting them cheat with the knowledge that it is illegitimate, and then per-

forming a mass raid killing them all. Tax money, or any money for that matter, should not be used for genocidal traps such as the War on Drugs.

There are many other reasons why, from a utilitarian standpoint, the illegality of drugs should be repealed, but these all pale in comparison to what I believe is the most important reason of all: liberty. Laws making drugs illegal are laws founded on very feeble grounds: morality. The problems with laws based on morality are numerous. Primarily, traditional concepts of morality are entirely subjective. The morality of one man, or his code of ethics by which he lives, is not necessarily the same as that of another. In fact, it is very likely that they are different when the population considered is filled with as heterogeneous a mix of cultures and environments as the United States. For example, Native Americans use the drug peyote for religious ceremonies. These ceremonies are now defunct due to myopic narcotics restrictions. Because of such differences in values, we should not form laws based on them. Such laws oppress others for the mere reason that the country's elites have certain beliefs.

The precedent set by laws to protect the population is dangerous in any case. Such a mindset for the formation of a legal code justifies banning car, sex, cigarette smoking, air travel, or even childbirth. Without even taking such laws to their logical extremes, one can easily see Huxley's

Brave New World of genetic engineering, soma consumption, and restricted opinion expression rising in the distance.

Even if there is an objective basis for morality that supports drug illegality, governmental enforcement destroys the moral cause itself. The definition of morality is a prioritization of values accepted by choice. Without choice, actions are not moral, they are merely forced movements or procedures directed toward preordained values. Even the Bible supports this view of "right" action. For example, when God created the earth, he allowed the temptation of the Tree of Knowledge to exist. This was for the purpose of choice and to allow morality instead of a static existence of blind comital. The inherent characteristics of the concept of morality mean that when it is enforced, it becomes void.

It should be realized that the policy of drug illegality is one that the government created and that directly violates rights of citizens who would not endanger others absent such restrictions. Merely possessing and using drugs harms no one. Restrictions preventing possession and use harm everyone by directly devaluing man's life as a man. The only true difference between man and other inferior animals, such as our near relative the ape, is that man is a being of volitional consciousness. The advantage of this asset is the ability to reason and therefore make rational choices. If the ability to

choose is restricted, then we are no more than plants: beings surviving by means of automatic physical and chemical functions sans advantages of volitional consciousness. At best we are reduced to animals of instinctive consciousness. Once such integral functions are removed from man, his ability to survive and live as a man is reduced; hence, the value of his life as a man is decreased. With such restrictions as drug illegality, the ability of some men to pursue their own interests and values is removed. This eliminates individual identity, choice, and thought in one fell swoop.

By the two dominant paradigms of rationalization, I have found the laws restricting drugs to be illegitimate and undesirable. Undoubtedly, there will be those to spout utilitarian reasons supporting the need for these laws, but remember, this is the calculus to justify populations in individual protective bubbles and brave new worlds of coercion and repression. It is this calculus that robs us of our lives as human beings. An artificial entity created by the people should not take actions that on face value hurt the people and restrict their liberties to protect them from their own human nature. It is at that point that government is overstepping its purpose and boundaries. Our government was created not to be a utopia, but for the protection of freedom. Laws restricting drugs directly violate that purpose and should be eliminated.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Which Alternative Music Groups Should We Trust?

by Eric Greenwood

Now that record companies are trying to commercialize alternative music, it's hard to know which new bands to trust. The independent labels are being invaded by major label executives who want to turn underground bands into household names. Some have succeeded by taking bands like Jesus Jones and EMF and making them number one on Billboards pop charts. This trend is giving alternative music a bad name as well as making it hard for the public to distinguish sincere bands from the trendy teenyboppers. Three bands that definitely deserve the trust of any hardcore alternative music fan are Britain's Lush, Ride, and Chapterhouse.

Lush's first ep's, *Scar* and *Mad Love*, rocketed up the independent charts, and have been compiled with four new songs for an album release entitled *Gala*. The music sounds like its name- atmospheric, airy fairy vocals combined with fast-paced rhythmic fuzz guitars. The melodies between vocalist Miki Ber-

enyi and guitarist Emma Anderson are reminiscent of the Cocteau Twins which may be due to the fact that Robin Guthrie of the Cocteau Twins produced many of the songs. Their cover of Abba's "Hey, Hey, Helen" is a must hear, and their single, "Deluxe", is one of the best songs to hit the college airwaves this past year.

Touring this past year with Lush were fellow brits Ride whose aggressive sound avoids the dance-oriented style of the popular music scene in Manchester, England in favor of moody melodies over ambient guitars. While every other band in England is trying to sound like the Stone Roses, Ride's Birds-esque vocals and feedback guitars have taken them in a new direction. Two of Ride's ep's were compiled for an album release entitled *Smile* which presented a modern sound based on older influences. This style was perfected on the band's most recent album *Nowhere*. This album's intoxicating melodies are

driven by pounding bass lines and rhythmic guitars to produce an original and highly addictive sound.

Following in the footsteps of Ride is England's Chapterhouse whose album *Whirlpool* has been firmly cemented in the independent charts for many weeks now. Lead vocalist Andrew Sherriff's dream-inspired lyrics prove indistinguishable at times due to the highly textured production. The dissonant guitar sound will entreat the listener especially on the ethereal first single entitled "Pearl". The name Chapterhouse comes from the Aldous Huxley novel *Heaven and Hell* in which it means a higher state of consciousness which is representative of the bands music.

By holding on to their independent labels, these three bands prove that they have no interest in the commercializing schemes of major record companies. Musically, these bands have put some hope in an often times unstable music scene.

Metallica

by Todd Anderson

On August 12, 1991, Metallica released their much-heralded follow-up to *...And Justice For All*. On August 12, 1991, *Metallica*, the self-titled fifth album of the band went to number one on the Billboard album charts. One magazine cover story stated that Metallica had "re-invented" itself. Metallica has done just that. Instead of trying to top the immense and "back-breaking" concept album of *Justice* with a more immense and focused album, Metallica has released their shortest and most powerful songs to date.

"Enter Sandman" opens the album with no political or biblical commentary but a Stephen King-esque nightmare. Despite the fact that the song is now rotated on, gag, MTV and 103.3 WKDF with such winners as Don Henley and the Black Crowes, it is an incredible send-off to the album. "Sad But True" is a plodding commentary on life sparked by the eerie slide guitar during the chorus. "Holier Than Thou" is the third song on the album. I think the mood of the song sounds much like a return to *Ride the Lightning*.

This mood was probably not intended but the sound certainly was. Grotesquely unhappy with their former producer Flemming Rasmussen, Metallica enlisted the aid of Bob Rock who encouraged the band to record at least the basic tracks live, and who also helped the band move to a warmer tone instead of the dryness of *Justice*. The band felt that *Ride the Lightning* had much more of the type of tone they desired. This "new" recording technique gave Kirk Hammett (lead guitar) more space than on previous albums. In the past, Kirk was only called in to do solos after James Hetfield (rhythm guitar and vocals) recorded all the rhythms (sometimes up to eight tracks of rhythm) and harmonized guitars. On *Metallica*, Kirk pulls out his old wah-wah pedal and slows down his melodies for an overall more "back-to-basics" approach (Kirk even adds fills in between verses and lines, making him much more than "the solo player").

James's song-writing shows an enormous growth. True, there is still the occasional political commentary, but James's lyrics show some of his personal feelings and beliefs. This is probably an outgrowth of "Dyer's Eve," the finale to *Justice*. "Dyer's Eve" portrays the censorship of parents on their children, not allowing the children to see the daily horrors of life. James growls, "My wings clipped before I've learned to fly." This outrage at his parents was brought on by his Christian Scientist upbringing. James believed it was totally illogical to believe that doctors were not needed to fix broken bones and such. This most likely led to an enmity of Christianity, though I am not certain. For *Metallica*, James wrote a song which contains the lines, "Broken is the promise, betrayal/ The healing hand held back by the deepened nail... Follow the God that failed." Whether "The God That Failed" was written sincerely to emphasize the horror of the crucifixion, or James's own denouncement of Christ, I cannot tell. The most personal song on the album is "The Unforgiven." In it, James describes his life as an old man looking back on his alienation at upbringing. The emotions are aggravated by his actual singing. "New blood joins the earth/ and quickly he's subdued/ Through constant pain disgraced/ The young boy learns their rules... The old man here is me," he roars, and then he sings, "What I've felt/ What I've known/ Never shined through in what I've shown/ Never see/ Never be/ Never see what might have been... You labeled me/ I'll label you/ So I dub thee unforgiven."

"Don't Tread On Me" is a moshing political discussion of America's war machine. "Wherever I May Roam" features a sitar while James sings his anthem of life on the road. The other half of the album would probably take even longer to discuss, so I hope I have given an accurate account of Metallica long awaited return.

Good Luck to the Senior Class

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-From a friend



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ENTERTAINMENT

Making the Primal Leap, the Sound of Primus

by Todd Anderson

In 1984, Todd Huth (guitar), Tim "Herb" Alexander (drums), and Les "Snappy" Claypool (bass) debuted as an arty trio knocking around the San Francisco clubs. Todd Huth soon left to raise a family and was replaced by Larry "Ler" LaLonde. The trio soon turned to a heavier sound and in 1990 released a live album — *On This*. The album features some abrasive soloing by Les and Herb ("the ginseng drummer") without the redundant guitar heroics of most contemporary bands. The updated Primus continues performing the Primus "classics" with Ler reproducing Todd Huth's guitar melodies.

Primus has been labeled "thrash-funk" for lack of a better title, but their potpourri of musical backgrounds would belie any label the critics could assess to their music. Les is the only member with any type of "funk"

background, but mostly he taps, slaps, strums and plucks his six-string fretless bass with no preconceived musical path. Ler studied guitar with Joe Satriani and though very knowledgeable, usually plays with no regard to key or theory. Les describes Ler's guitar playing as the "textures on top" of the harsh, catapulting grooves created by Les and Herb. This is quite a change considering Ler's first band Possessed earned him a cameo appearance on Geraldo's special on satanism.

In 1990, Primus released *Frizzle Fry*, their first studio album. Les's bizarre Dr. Seuss-meets-Animal of the Muppets-style singing and poignant yet fruity lyrics add to the 7th dimensional musical trip of the album. Les has crafted a very witty song about warfare and man's gen-

eral inhumanity to man called, quite obviously, "Too Many Puppies." Les's bass playing functions not only as the bottom end of the trio, but also as a rhythm guitar because of his harsh chords and arpeggios. Herb's drumming carries the band rhythmically as they choose not to clutter up the sound with silly rhythm guitars. Ler comes in on top and somewhat in the background with odd melodies and lazy rhythms. This album's music is tough enough to describe without the interference of the lyrics. Les delivers point-making wit ("Why do brides wear virgin white?/ Most do not deserve that right," from "To Defy The Laws Of Tradition"), the seemingly straightforward narrative of "John the Fisherman," the ludicrous narrative ("I like spaghetti westerns/ I like the way the boots are all reverbed out

walking across the hard wood floor/ In fact, everything's got that big reverb sound," from "Spaghetti Western" and "With my black leather and my best fishing hat/ It was just Wendy O. and me," from "Harold of the Rocks"), and the mixture of comic narrative with point-making wit as in "Pudding Time." "Pudding Time" also has some of the most aggressive music on the album and one of Les's indescribable bass solos (which features a little snippet of the old "Batman" TV show's theme).

For 1991, Primus returned with *Sailing the Seas of Cheese*, a self-produced little wonder of an album. The hard-hitting grooves are back and so are the twisted lyrics, but unfortunately, the vocals are mixed a little underneath everything so even less distinguishable than

Frizzle Fry. "Jerry Was A Race Car Driver" is an instant classic driven by Les's two-hand-tapped melody. "Tommy The Cat" appears on this album with the cameo vocal of Tommy being done by Tom Waits ("Tommy The Cat" was released on — *On This* with Les singing, and if one wants to hear the words this is the intelligible version). "American Life" is a little song about our country with a cool rolling arpeggio melody courtesy of Les. "Los Bastardos" is a remake of "Here Come The Bastards" (also on the album) with many esteemed guest players such as Faith No More's Mike Borodin and Todd Huth.

If you like a "square peg for a round hole" (as Kirk Hammett describes Primus), then you can catch them performing "Tommy The Cat" in *Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey* or on tour with Tad.

Photo Opportunity



Photo by Justin Crosslin

"Hey Scott, take a deep breath."

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SPORTS

M.B.A Juggernaut Rolls Around For Another Year

by Bo Bartholomew and Grant Seshul

As the grueling two-a-day football practices slowly but surely develop the dull unorganized M.B.A. boys into tough, sharpened men of football, the only thought on people's minds is, "Can we repeat last year?"

As one ponders this question, the immortal words of head coach Tommy Owen ring out clear as bells: "The 1990-91 school year was a great one athletically for M.B.A. However, that is history!" This team is one of new vigor and new fire, but the same aspirations to the state championship.

On August seventh, approximately seventy prospects stepped onto the campus with great expectations of the challenges to come. Within this motley crew, 18 seniors stepped forth to provide the leadership that will be necessary to lead this team to victory. Along with the



Photo by Russell Acosta

roar of heavy machinery in the background, so rolls the "delicate thunder" backfield. The mighty red backs are lead by seniors Weaver, Crawford, and Harris. Along with the aerial assault between Underwood and Welton, Wray, Johnston, Bell, and Bartholomew. The mighty meat that battles in the trenches is a result of the leadership by Burkhalter, Cortis, Goodloe, Howerton, Moser, Seshul, Smithson, Taylor,

and Wood. The battalion of seniors is amply aided by a strong and talented junior class, and a raw but promising sophomore class.

With all of this untested fury and determination, the coaches have forged an unstoppable juggernaut. One can only shimmer at the thought of these untamed beasts being released on September 6th in the quiet rural town of Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Running for Victory

by Justin Crosslin

During the week of August 19-22, the Cross Country team traveled to Natchez Trace State Park to build team spirit. The thirteen participants were captains Justin Crosslin and Matt Zibas (Roy Alley could not run because of a knee injury) in addition to seniors Scott Hande, David Wyckoff, and Alex Rogers, juniors John Crosslin, Glen Gaston, Frazer Buntin, sophomores Taylor Harris, Geoff Zimmerman, and freshmen John Farringer, Jonathan Fly, and Mark Wyckoff. The fearless leader of the expedition was Coach Grizzly Pruitt.

Just as the football team has grueling two-a-days, so, too, did the cross-country team who ran forty

miles in the four day period. In spite of the fatiguing workouts, the team still managed to cause a ruckus. Some of the more vexing activities, at least for the rangers, including bridge-jumping, paddleboat flipping, and "wanging" (otherwise known as water-ballooning).

Other, more mainstream activities, included volleyball. The juniors (and Taylor Harris), after having a moderately successful first day, fell in flames to the mighty seniors losing 2-1 in the best two out of three series, but as all know and as the juniors found out, senior leadership rules. The massive, four day water balloon war, however, was the one activity that lasted the length of the camp.

Approximately 1000 bal-

lons were used over the four day period. As one would expect, the senior cabin was the only one which remained dry due, in part, to Matt Zibas's ingenuity and skill in the fabrication of barricades. Both the junior and freshman cabins were to some degree drenched with the freshman cabin emerging as the apparent loser. After a final all out war on the last night, which saw water balloons chucked at the sorority girls in the adjacent cabin, Justin put his eagle scout abilities to hard work as he built a fire for the s'mores.

The team now looks forward to the season ahead: the first big meet is on Saturday, September 14th. The cross country team invites all students to watch the Big Red run over its opposition.

1991 Football Schedule

Sept 6.....Warren Central	*Oct 18x.....Whites Creek
*Sept 13x.....Overton	Oct 25x.....Hillwood
Sept 20.....Cleveland	*Nov 1x.....Homecoming.....Ryan
Sept 27x.....Pearl-Cohn	Nov 8x.....Hillsboro
*Oct 4.....Hunters Lane	* Home Games
*Oct 11.....Tullahoma	x District Games

Summer Hoops

by John Schlansker

This summer the M.B.A. basketball team competed in a local summer league to keep them in shape and to bond the team for the up-coming winter. First off, the team travelled to a basketball camp at Baylor in Chattanooga, where they posted an impressive 11-1 record, losing only to a very good West Hall team. The team then returned home to begin their regular summer league schedule where they posted a 10-3 record. M.B.A. split with Brentwood Academy in two extremely exciting games. They went 2-0 against David Lipscomb, 3-0 against Cheatham Co., a series in which one of the games had the M.B.A. offensive attack pouring in 113 points. They went 2-0 in the series with both Hillwood and Goodpasture respectively, and they

were 0-1 against both Tullahoma and, after a hard fought game, Father Ryan.

Although the size and content of the team varied according to who was available, the participants were seniors Hunter Connelly, David Fitzgerald, Patrick Hale, Scott Hande, Glenn Harris, John Schlansker, Ryan Tyrell, and Joe Underwood, juniors John Arendale, Jody Cummings, R.A. Dickey, and Andy Ward, and sophomores Andy Barrett, and Freshmen Will Coles and Rob Welhoelter. Now most of the team looks forward to a fall season occupied by Coach Thoni's work-out to build up strength and endurance for the winter. Once winter roles around, they should be well prepared for a season which they hope will turn out to be one of their best.

The Pepsi All-Sports Challenge

by John Wallace

This fall, after a very impressive athletic year in 1990-91, M.B.A. received its well deserved rewards in the form of the TSSAA All-Sports Trophy signifying that out of all AAA schools in Tennessee, M.B.A. had the greatest total of points. This remarkable achievement comes as a result of hard work and outstanding performance on both the athletic fields and in the classrooms. The TSSAA gives points to teams for their individual regular season games and their play-off and tournament games, as well as for their academic performance. Last year, every single sport

helped contribute to this highly esteemed honor. M.B.A. is unique in its AAA classification, because, in terms of enrollment, M.B.A. should be classified AA, but it chooses to compete in the arguably tougher AAA. M.B.A. must not only credit the students but also the super work done by all of the coaches under the supervision of Athletic Director, Mr. John Bennett. M.B.A. recognizes this outstanding achievement, but now it focuses on a possible repeat with the opening of the Cross-Country, Football, and Golf seasons.

**GOOD LUCK TO THE
CROSS COUNTRY TEAM**

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